

Bishop Wilbur P. Thirkield and Family

gratefully acknowledge

your kind expression of sympathy

Dear Walter Speer:

Keystone Heights  
Feb. 3:12, '05

I add this more  
personal word of gratitude  
for your tender, sympathetic  
helpful message. I feel the  
breath of your own great power  
in your word of faith & tri-  
umphant hope.

And so I fare forth, a lonely  
pilgrim but with great memories  
& a great & immortal hope!

Yours most grateful, W. J. —

SUSAN DICKINSON STONE  
SIX LINTON STREET  
CINCINNATI, OHIO

My dear Dr and Mrs Speer

We deeply appreciated Dr Speer's letter and felt honored to hear directly from you when the hearts of the Christian world are thinking of you and yours. I had my two small kodak's enlarged and send you these copies. As I have the plates now, I could get one in any desired size. Do not return these, even if you

have the pictures already.  
Such a happy smiling  
face, as Elliott holds up  
the trout! It is a joy  
to have even a little thing  
which you might like!  
With constant deep sympathies  
from us both.

Susan Dickinson Stone

Nov. 18, '34.

a.k.1

RESTWELL FARM  
NEWTOWN, CONN.

Wednesday.

Dear Mrs. Spear,

I can't tell you how  
touched I was to get the  
letter with your friend  
Mrs. Shearman, & to realize  
that you've been thinking of us.  
We've had you all constantly  
on our minds and in our  
prayers. When I first saw <sup>you</sup> that  
day, when Mrs. Gould & I  
had tea with you, my love  
went out to you constantly. Do  
you mind? And I've longed &

people. that I hesitate to even ask this -  
and if you are not able, you will tell  
me so, won't you, dear Mrs. Speer?

Your friend spoke of the dabbles. I was  
so sorry to find them after you had  
gone. I had hoped though we  
might run up with some the next  
day, but that was not to be.

God keeps you & Dr. Speer. With  
my love

Isabel Hoar.

all these days to do something to  
help; but sometimes even love is  
powerless.

I think, in the losses that  
have come to me, that the  
thought that love never dies  
has helped so much - that my  
dear ones are still loving me.  
So with your dear dad - his  
love for you all goes on,  
stronger, sweeter than ever, be-  
cause now he is free to face  
with love & earnest.

Someday, when you are able, may  
I come over and see you? You  
have so many friends and your  
life means so much to countless

(Mrs) Clara J.

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DEC 7 1934

5524 KENTUCKY AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

Dec. 5-1934.

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Spurr.

I was away and not well at the time your great grief came to you. With the very many letters that I know you would receive I felt that you would be comforted and so hesitated to write to you. I have thought of you and prayed for you many times, but I have felt sure that had Mr. Hunt been living at the time he would have wanted you to know of his sympathy. So at this late date I am writing to tell you how many times my heart has reached out to you in sympathy.

Very sincerely

Miss J. B. Clara J. Hunt.



and  
Sept 17/34

2734 N Stowell Ave.  
Milwaukee Wis.  
Sept 17, 1934

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,

Vertuade and I were terribly shocked to read in the paper of the death of your son Elliot. His picture is in the evening paper. I remember on the mantel in the Bonneton home the photograph of him as a little boy. We are sorry we did not know him.

Please accept our most sincere and heartfelt sympathy. Perhaps we can feel with you

more keenly at this time as  
we have just sustained the  
loss of my dear sister Mary.

She died Wednesday, after  
about three weeks of a rapid  
decline. The autopsy proved  
she had cancer, very deep  
seated and not suspected by  
the several doctors attending  
her.

She wished to be cremated.  
A beautiful but simple  
funerary service was held at  
the church parlors, Sunday.

Mary was so much interested  
and deeply appreciative of your  
work on Father's life, & I am so glad  
she had it before her death.

With deepest sympathy

Harold R. Holmes.

ans  
5/6

660 Madison St  
Brooklyn N.Y.

Rev. Robert E. Sheard Esq.  
150-5<sup>th</sup> ave  
New York City.

Sept 25, 34

I read in the daily papers, of the sudden bereavement, and loss of your dear son Elliot whom you introduced to me, several years ago, before you were starting on one of your long trips. I have hesitated to write you before, as this was so sudden and unexpected, as I could not feel and say it was the hand of the Lord.

Be it as it is I cannot express in words, how my heart, and love and ~~sympathy~~ <sup>sympathy</sup> ~~kindness~~ to you and your good wife and mother of your boy, your son William the daughter in Scotland, and the one in China, I have not met, the daughter in law your grand children. I can only Pray as many others do. But

it is the one comforting thing to  
not only stimulate, but sustain under  
the circumstances. all around where  
I have heard this case commented  
on. It is one of real sympathy, and  
from Gods Children, we can Pray.  
I have been through it when it  
was expected, **But** not in yours.

But happy in **the** thought of  
where you **are** all united in the  
Christian Faith. I was reading of the  
Great Henry Ward Beecher, when  
talking to his assistants on a Saturday  
night, and he was perplexed about  
his Sunday sermon, he said there  
is one thing we can still do  
that is Pray. and just now in  
writing this to you, I recall the

Topic of our Pastor Rev. Wilson G. Cole was  
who took a trip this summer, and  
on the first sermon his topic was  
our faith in the fog. Of which  
you no doubt are familiar, during  
some of your trips across the Ocean.

But I am happy to know who the  
Pilot of the Sheer family is. Let me  
mention this a de. Clark of the  
Calvary mission House <sup>44 Ave. 22<sup>nd</sup></sup>  
said of all men he believed in  
dr. Sheer was the one he could  
never believe ~~in~~ in substance doing  
or going wrong. But through it all  
when it comes home, we are human  
we want the Prayers and Sympathy  
of God's children. I know I am  
addressing a man of God, and his  
Dear ones. Affectionately Yours.  
Sydney E. Hutchins.

ack.

COBBLE POND FARM  
SHARON, CONNECTICUT

Dear Mr. Speer.

Our very kindly greetings  
to you in these sad days, and  
we are all sincerely of you  
with loving and prayer-  
full hearts.

Respectfully,  
Margaret Hatch

4. 12. 1911

Dear Cousin Emma:

We were all of us very much shocked yesterday to learn the news about your son. Although we see this sort of thing every day in the newspapers it seems all the more startling when it affects people that we know ourselves.

I like to think that everyone is placed in this world for a definite purpose.

In the case of some people they are able to accomplish a really useful life so that their environment and the persons with whom they come in contact are distinctly benefited. And the world is a decidedly

better place because of their having lived in it.

From everything that I have heard about him this  
can certainly be said about your son.

With my deepest sympathy for both Mr. Spier and yourself

Very sincerely yours

Stewart Huston

September 17<sup>th</sup> 1934



ack.

September 19, 1934.  
69 No. Franklin Street  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Spear.

On my return from a week-end at Camp, I was greatly shocked to hear of the deep sorrow that has come to you and yours.

There is little one can say at such a time but it does help us to know that we are constantly in the thoughts and prayers

of our friends, as I know  
from experience.

May the glorious promise  
of the Easter-tide comfort  
and sustain you all.

Please do not trouble  
to answer this note, I just  
want to assure you of my  
deep regard, affection and  
sympathy.

Very sincerely yours,

Pauline Hermon.

Q. 12.

General - New York  
S. S. Y. H. September 16-1934

Dear Mrs. Speer -

Because God gave me  
so much help through your  
searching words - services  
at Synodical meeting last  
October, I venture to send you  
my word & sympathy in this  
grief which has come to you  
all - When your lovely son,

Mr. Kearse has found for him to do  
there - it must be something very  
wonderful and worth while.

May his strength be sufficient for  
Love every minute!

Sincerely yours

Lu Seymour Jones Hopkins

Mr. Elliott Speer, carried forward  
the dignified and impressive  
Sunday morning service at the  
Northfield Missionary Conference,  
in July, I am assured, the  
qualities which have made  
both you and Dr. Speer such  
a power in the kingdom. What  
a son! We can but wonder  
just what task his Father

and

Sunday Night.

September 16. 1834

New Cap from  
North Wales  
Pa

Dear Mrs. Green

May I add my most  
affectionate sympathy to  
you, & Michael & those of  
your friends, in this time  
of great sorrow.

I need not say I was  
shocked & grieved to see the  
news of Elliott's death in  
yesterday's paper.

It seems so strange that  
a young man who has  
given himself so manfully  
to a life of science  
should be taken out of

it as a loss.

Advantage been so made  
to give passage to those  
of us who followed of our  
leadership to the Marcy's

I bear the wonderful strength  
that comes only from the  
true spirit of God himself  
in keeping our strength  
and I pray that the Marcy  
Team and all of God  
may be May God Thruout  
this year ours.

Always with love  
and preparation of our  
friends

Yours sincerely  
Wm. A. B. B. B.

adm.

99 LINDEN AVENUE  
ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY  
TELEPHONE 3-0535

My darling Emma: How can I  
say what is in our hearts  
for you & yours. The whole  
country is just overwhelmed  
with its loss & on all  
sides of this town we hear  
how could this sorrow have  
come to our beloveds.



Laird & Kay were good enough  
to come to us on Monday so  
that we felt a little in  
touch with you although  
when great sorrows or  
great joys come, I always  
find our lives very close  
even at a distance.

I think so often of that  
lovely letter from Stanley  
about Swynslow that

99 LINDEN AVENUE  
ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY  
TELEPHONE 3-0535

You used to lead to me  
for Turplet School. You  
remember he says that  
if he could do something  
for Firmstone the distance  
would be less - the parking  
would be eased.

That is how we feel for  
you all & if you can think

of any thing in  
which we might be  
helpful, please let us  
do it for we love you  
& our hearts are full of  
sympathy.

Your loving

Maud J. Hulst.

September 19<sup>th</sup>

ack.

HADLYME, CONNECTICUT  
TELEGRAMS VIA DEEP RIVER  
TELEPHONE, DEEP RIVER 65-2

September 30<sup>th</sup>

Dear Emma -

I had thought to wait until I saw you and not add another to the piles of letters you have to open and read, but you are so constantly in my mind, this note is writing itself in spite of me. You have so very much love given you, and love does help. I cannot think of you in the lonely land where great pain sends most people. And yet I know that nobody really can enter where you are except his wife and his father. Dear

Emma, when I stop to think of what it  
all has been and is, my pen will not  
write down any more futile words.

And yet I know deep underneath I  
can take comfort for you.

Yours from my heart,

E.H.

It was dusk as I sat by the fireside  
And dreamily gazed through the pine trees  
At the golden glow of the sunset  
Which, reflecting itself in the water,  
United heaven and earth in radiance,  
Making them part of one glory.

Quietly I waited the coming  
Home from his work of my Husband.  
My heart was o'erflowing with joy  
For it seemed that one year of marriage  
Had brought to me fullness of gladness,  
With a rapture of wonder and reverence  
I could feel close to my own heart  
The marvelous pulse of another,  
The heart of my child unborn,  
So soon to be clasped to my bosom.

Was it dream, or a vision? I know not.  
But there, in the peace of the twilight,  
The voice of my child whispered softly:  
"Mother, oh Mother, you love me,  
All that I need you give to me;  
Love, warmth, and comfort surround me:  
Your very life you share with me.  
I know not the great outer world,  
But here am content and at peace.  
Oh, let me stay here, My Mother,  
With our hearts beating close to each other".

Then with deep reverence I answered:  
"My child, you now are contented  
Because you have no conception  
Of the beauties and joys of the earth life.  
You are content with the darkness  
Because your eyes are not opened  
To the joy and the beauty of sunlight,  
Of moonlight, and starlight, and love light.  
You are content with the silence  
Because you know nothing of music,  
The laughter of children, and bird song,  
The sound of the wind in the pine trees,  
The voice of one saying, 'I love you'".

"You feel that we shall be parted  
When the physical bond which unites us  
Is sundered at birth. But you know not  
The closer bonds of our being,  
The deep understanding of friendship,  
The union of joy and of purpose,  
The love that unites us forever".

That night, through the Portal of Pain,  
Our child was born into life.

Years passed: The child grew in stature,  
In mind and in heart and in spirit,  
In love and in joy and in radiance.  
He filled our life with his sunshine,  
Our work and our thought centered in him,  
With joy and thanksgiving we loved him.

It was dusk as we watched by his bedside.  
The Angel of Death hovered o'er him  
And we prayed to God in our anguish:  
"Father, Oh Father, we love him!  
He is the joy of our being,  
The beauty of life lies before him,  
A life filled with serving and gladness,  
Oh, take him not from us we pray Thee!"

Was it dream or a vision? I know not.  
But the room was filled with a radiance  
And the voice of God whispered to me:  
"You wish him to stay in the Earth life  
Because you have no conception  
Of the glories and gladness of Heaven,  
The ineffable radiance of light  
That shines from the face of the Master,  
Reflected in love light and joy light  
By all who serve in His Kingdom."

"You craved for your dear one the triumph  
Of work done and glad service rendered  
For man and for God on earth,  
Then grieve not because he is summoned  
To the glory of service in Heaven,  
To the joy of laboring with others  
By spirit and purpose united  
In building the City Eternal  
From a plan that God has made perfect;  
To the gladness of work in a garden  
Where every plant grows to perfection  
And each flower unfolds its beauty  
In the light of Christ's loving approval.  
The music of earth is as naught  
To the marvelous music created  
When each in the joy of his effort  
And led by the Master Musician  
Perfectly plays his part  
In the symphony of Creation  
While the voice of God vibrates through heart-strings  
Attuned to His love and His purpose."

"You would cling to the bodily presence  
Because you have no comprehension  
Of the glorious powers of a spirit  
Which freed from bonds of flesh  
Shares Omnipresence with God,  
Dwelling in Heaven, but abiding also on Earth,  
Ministering with love made perfect  
And understanding infinite,

And holding sweet communion  
With those whose love-filled hearts  
By faith and joy attuned  
Respond to the voices of angels".

The voice of God ceased. But our hearts  
Were filled with a radiance of peace.

That night, through the Door of our Grief,  
Our child was born into Life.



ack,

SHENNAMERE  
DARIEN, CONNECTICUT



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Dear Mrs Speer,

Our thoughts have been  
much with you & Dr Speer  
in these past days & Mr Boyle  
& I want to express to you our  
deeps & heartfelt sympathy.  
Perhaps an experience that  
came to me many years  
ago may shed peace's  
another Mother's heart. In  
this hope I send you the  
enclosed.

You must have hundreds of  
letters - Please don't bother  
to acknowledge this one.

sincerely yours

Wm. N. S. Doyl.

(Rev. John Sherman Doyl.)

ack.

LAKNOLL  
LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Dear Mrs. Speer,

May Mr. Hausman

and I bow our heads

with you and Dr. Speer

in your sorrow.

Very sincerely yours,

Mary J. Hausman

September nineteenth.

ack.

330 East 52<sup>d</sup> Street  
New York City

Dear Mrs. Speer:

Although we may  
not all have said so, I  
hope that you have been  
aware of how constantly  
all of us in the General  
Administration office have

some tangible way of showing all that we are feeling for you.

I had the privilege about ten years ago of being in a student conference where your son was one of the leaders - and although I do not recall what he said, I do remember well the spirit that he infused into the conference and how he held that group of students by the force of his personality.

Please do not think of acknowledging this note - but I could not not write, even tho' I know how many hundreds of letters you must be receiving.

With very deep admiration and affectionate sympathy for you

Harriet Hitchcock

September 30

been thinking of you during  
these past weeks, and with  
what sympathy and affection.  
I dare say Nellie Sullivan  
has told you that the very  
first person who telephoned to  
the office on that Saturday  
morning was Anna Vogel,  
who wanted to know if  
there was anything she could  
do for you - and all of us  
in general Administration  
wish so that there were

adm.

COBBLE POND FARM  
SHARON, CONNECTICUT

Dear Miss Reed.

I was sorry of you  
to write me and like Mrs  
Speer to think of asking you to  
do least go out to the entire  
Speer, really with love and  
admiration. They are meeting  
this grief that you come to  
them - with the spirit that  
is bound to help others in  
their times of sorrow.

Affectionately  
Margaret Hatch

Tuesday.

Of course you  
have had this source  
given you by  
Mrs Hatfield - but I  
thought it best  
of her to write me



adm,

SOUTH BRISTOL MAINE

Dear Mrs. Speer,

I just wanted you to  
know how consistently you have  
been in my prayers all these  
long days. I wish there were  
something I could do for you.  
If there is, will you let me  
know. Heaven bless you & Dr.  
Speer & give you peace.

With my love

Isabel Ford.

ack.

Sept 17

My dearest precious Emma

You are so everlast-  
ly in my thoughts & prayers  
in these most tragic days.  
I have refrained from  
writing at once for some  
the first day. Were for  
ones family & relatives  
I can wait no longer  
& send you my warm-  
test tender sympathy & dear-  
est love. What can I  
say my dear friend? What  
can any one say to

as I would. Of course I am not  
leaving the papers daily, as all  
your friends are, looking to  
learn of the success both  
that will not leave the going.

In all wish me well & do  
some little thing for your dear-  
est Emma. I am praying  
in every print & every  
stranger must be praying  
for your strength, & that  
God's Blessings for her children  
will also be strengthened by  
God's everlasting mercy.

Before long I must come  
to see you, in the mean time  
I will surround you with my  
tender love. Please tell all others  
of my sympathy & love  
"Billy" ever devotedly  
Helen.

help you in your tedious  
grief. God has blessed  
you & your dear husband  
with such a faith, with  
the deepest love &  
charity, that you are  
mercifully sustained.  
Then too, your beloved  
sons enter into that  
new life, is with a  
glory which transcends  
even the glory of the  
Saints. Ah! but  
for you & your loved  
ones, it is tragic  
beyond expression.  
and I cannot write

adv.

810 FIFTH AVENUE

Dear Mrs. Speer,

Cards can never tell you the  
heart-ache we all have for you and  
yours. Ruth Parrow is beyond all  
human understanding, but I just  
want you to know I do feel for  
you, very, very deeply. — The only

One who can bring any comfort at  
such a time, is very near you I am  
sure, because of your unusually  
beautiful closeness to Him. —

My love to you, dear Mrs. Spear,  
and kindest regards respectively.

Affectionately

May Tucker Mayo.

September nineteenth 1834. -

Back,

Dear Mrs Speer,

This is to bring to  
you and your family my  
deepest sympathy in the  
sad loss which has come  
to you in the death of your  
son Elliott.

It has seemed to  
me especially sad that the

The strength of his manhood.

The student world has met a great loss  
in these troublous times in the loss of his  
leadership.

My prayers are joined with those of  
your many friends that God may grant  
the comfort which only He can give  
to you and yours.

248 Collins St.  
Hartford, Conn.

September 21, 1934

Very sincerely yours.

Marion E. Hopkins



anguish of this personal loss  
should come to people such  
as you and Dr. Speer who have  
carried on your heart for years  
the suffering and sorrow of  
individuals and nations.

My heart goes out in  
sympathy to your son's wife  
and young family who must  
face the years ahead without

add/

DELLWOOD  
MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK

Dear Mrs. Spurr.

How my heart  
goes out to you - in  
long sympathy -  
your great sorrow!  
I am thankful you  
have only beautiful  
memories of your  
son - It is a mys-  
tery how my heart

and give you  
strength sufficient  
for each day's need.

Affectionately yours

Trinity C. Hammond

Sept. 17-

King could wish  
to do so dastardly  
a deed -

I hope some of  
them daughters may  
be a comfort,

by husband, his  
own in warm remem-  
brances to you  
husband -

God bless you

ack.

Melbaualoni -  
Moss.

Dear Mrs. Speer.

This note is loaded  
down with love - & let  
you know that you  
and yours are con-  
stantly in our prayers -  
God is our only refuge.

Don't answer this -  
lovingly -

Marjorie Sueclaw Hart.

Sept 17, 1934

Ans.

Q10

WILLIAM VAN VALZAH HAYES, M. D.

115 EAST 61ST STREET NEW YORK

REGENT 4-4045

3 Oct. 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer,

Just a few lines to tell you and Mrs. Speer how deeply Mrs. Hayes and I sympathize with you in the loss of that splendid son, who was doing such a fine piece of work. I can only understand it on the theory that it was due to the act of some poor disordered mind. Too many of that type are at large in our country I fear.

With love to you both and praying and knowing that you will be strengthened and upheld in this time of trial,

Faithfully yours,

Wm. Van V. Hayes.

018

Bar Harbor Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 34

My Dear Dr. Mrs Speer

I wish I could write  
as I feel in my heart  
my deepest sympathy about  
the sad death of your  
beloved son Mr E Speer

I have been thinking every day  
and night I am thankful  
dear Mrs Kennedy has  
gone home I know  
just how she would  
have felt as I

it is Dad to see Kenarden. The  
way it is,

My dearest Sympathy  
a faithful friend

Amanda Halgren

Bar Harbor Maine

Box 244

PS excuse my  
poor English



know how much  
she loved him as she  
always told me you  
were her very best friends,  
it would have been  
very sad if Mrs Kennedy  
and Mrs Schaeffler  
had leaved and know  
Dear Mr Speer had been  
killed in Warthfield,  
that she done so much  
for, I am here in  
Bar Harbor taking care  
of a Sady intell  
October 15th when  
I return to New York

Dear Doctor Spear:

I cannot refrain from sending  
a word of sympathy to you and  
Mrs Spear in the loss of your splendid  
son. It is indeed a calamity for  
us all that such a youth should be  
taken from his work, more important  
perhaps than any other undertaking

in the world today. It may done  
thoroughly, conscientiously and successfully.  
You must have been so proud of him  
how anxieties and death itself  
are past for him. If they could only  
speak to us a little & tell us what  
they are doing, what and where  
that land is.

I shall never forget the light-  
you gave me after the loss of my  
brother and my husband.

With grateful regards.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Cecilia K. Peterson Gaet.

Lake Forest.

September 21<sup>st</sup> 1934.

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2714 DANA STREET  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Sept. 16, 1934

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Spear:

I was shocked beyond measure when I heard via the radio and read in the evening paper of the tragic death of your beloved son Elliott in the very prime of life. He was a very little boy, when I visited your beautiful Englewood home in 1902. We cannot assuage your intense grief. Only the Heavenly Father can do that. How strange and unprovable such a death in such a place. We know no cause. But it is a sign of the fearful times in which we live. It seems to me that this terrible crime, which has shocked a nation, is indicative of the disorder of our present social order, which has deranged men's minds. My dear wife, and brother and sisters owe so much to Northfield beautiful & Mt. Hermon. Our hearts go out to you in deepest sympathy to the bereaved wife and heirs. May the children grow up to nobly fill their father's place. Ever affectionately your friend  
Lorraine D. Herrick

57

2714 DANA STREET  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

September 21, 1934

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Speer:

I do want my word of love <sup>and</sup> sympathy to you <sup>and</sup> yours in this hour of your sorrow to go with my husband's <sup>and</sup> he has left me to write for myself.

Our hearts <sup>and</sup> prayers are with you. God is giving you a very deep sharing in the fellowship of Christ's sufferings. May the sacredness of the privilege outweigh the personal loss. "Beloved, do not be surprised at the ordeal that has come to test you..... you are sharing what Christ suffered, so rejoice." May God give you that rich, ringing victory in spirit <sup>and</sup> enable you to triumph over

death <sup>and</sup> loss - in it.

"He that walketh in darkness -----,  
let him trust in the name of Jehovah  
<sup>and</sup> rely upon his God."

"Faith is the victory only when we are  
led by a way that we know not <sup>and</sup> through  
darkness that we cannot pierce until  
He has led us through."

These are thoughts that have met  
my need in suffering <sup>and</sup> I pass them on.  
Some day we shall understand. If that  
is not given us here, we can rest  
<sup>and</sup> trust in His wisdom <sup>and</sup> tender love.

As a former Northfield student, I feel  
deeply the suffering <sup>and</sup> loss this tragedy  
is bringing to the two schools also. Surely  
God's deeper, richer blessing to  
the many may be the result of these  
days of sorrow. We are standing  
together with you <sup>and</sup> them for the  
fulfilment of the promise claimed by

2714 DANA STREET  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Mr. Moody, - Is. 27: 3 - "I, the Lord, do keep  
it; I will water it every moment;  
lest any hurt it, I will keep it right  
and day."

Our continuing prayer is for strength  
and the meeting of all your need.

Very lovingly,  
Lillian Taylor Herriott

Neither of our letters expect  
any acknowledgement. We  
know you will be overwhelmed  
and would spare you.

L. T. H.

57

Dear, dear Mrs. Steer and Dr. Steer:

Mr. Haynes and I want you to know - how much we are thinking of you these days. The great strength and help you have been to so many of us in testing times, I'm sure will come back to you now - in measures overflowing.

Cordially,

Edgar & Mrs. Haynes.

411 Convent Ave.,  
N. Y. C., Sept. 17, '34.



ack.  
E.P.S. Oct. 17

Women's University Club  
106 East Fifty-Second Street  
New York

Sept 16, '34

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Speer:—

Only to-day have I

learned of the tragedy that has  
come to you & the overwhelming  
loss to our Northfield School  
in their taking away your

dearly beloved son.

My heart goes out to you in  
profound sympathy.

You may be deluged with letters  
& communications of every  
kind — do not answer

this but know that I am  
praying hard that you may be  
sustained in this great sorrow  
by the everlasting arms &  
love of Him who understands  
what to us is so complex  
& impossible to understand.

Yours with sympathy  
warm & sincere,

Catherine Atley Hill

(Mrs. Geo. E.)



auth. Oct 17

October 4, 1934  
Hôtel Beau-Rivage  
Genève

Dear Mrs. Speer:

Our hearts are  
full of deepest sympathy  
for you and Dr. Speer and  
the dear young wife of your  
beloved son. We cannot think  
that a life so full of courage  
and service can be taken  
in such a ruthless way  
by a psychopathic student

with an unacquainted friend.  
But we do know well how  
minds are affected in these  
difficult times. You are  
wonderful, I know, and your  
deep, splendid faith causes  
you to carry on with hope  
and courage. God give you  
greater strength!

Letters from Hillcrest  
girls are before me. One  
tells of your splendid talk  
at weavers - "how each has  
his part of the universal



Hôtel Beau Rivage  
Geneve

picture puzzle to put together  
and if each tries to perfect  
the little part - the great  
picture will be perfect."

"Mrs. Speer also reminded us that  
no matter how mean our  
work may be in life, if we performed  
it to the best of our ability we  
became masterworkmen."

Viola <sup>Medonitch</sup> goes on to say, "I would, by  
that is my inner self, has  
expanded so much this summer."  
It is dear of you to give your

best thoughts to these young  
girls. Thank you for sharing  
with them precious moments  
of your summer time.

We are still here in Geneva,  
busy with student work. It  
seems impossible to get away.  
When we return I do wish to  
see you.

My lovely iris bloomed  
this spring, and I remembered  
the day several years ago, when  
you brought the plants to me.

With love to you,

Faithfully yours  
Auntie Miner Hadden

211  
-14 Sutton Place, South  
New York City. Sept 17, 1938

Dear, dear Robert and Mrs.

~~Dear~~

I am writing this brief note  
to you, as soon as I could  
do so after hearing only  
yesterday of the dreadful news  
of your precious Elliott's death.  
My eyes prevent me from  
reading much, and through  
the day of my trip from Calz  
Jornin to Leonia I did not  
see or attempt to read a news  
paper. Only yesterday was I able  
to glance at the head lines

sorrow, but not without hope,  
of your afflicted experiences  
May, as He will, give to you  
the comforting grace which  
can alone be sufficient in this  
deep hour of your bereavement.  
With all love and best  
wishes to you. Yours sincerely.

J. H. Halford.  
Dr and Mrs. Robert E. Peery.  
I shall hope to be able to see you  
soon.  
100 Oak Street, Lodi, Ind.



and then my heart was  
broken into a sympathy  
and grief that I am sure  
you will both appreciate  
and understand.

After a brief stop at Leonia  
I came north Shelton here,  
and am kept from doing  
what I had hoped by the rain  
and dampness.

All this is explanation of  
what has held me in the  
bonds of a mutual love  
and grief over your sad,  
sad experience.

All I can say is that none  
can more deeply feel the

with 'army

October 14, 1934

NAUMKEAG  
RIVERDALE - ON - HUDSON  
NEW YORK

Dearest Mrs. Speer,

Altho' I have waited a long time before writing to you, my heart has been full of deepest sympathy for you & your family in the great tragedy that has befallen you.

George & I have thought of you with affectionate regards & deepest sorrow.

It is impossible, I think, to understand why splendid young men who are so desperately needed by their family & the cause they are serving like your dear, fine Elliott, & I would say also King Alexander, (whom we met only a year ago & liked so much) should be suddenly cut off from all they are doing.

broken hip, but getting on well -

I'll come to the National Board  
whenever possible

Again I want to assure you of  
my heartfelt love & sympathy,  
dear Mrs. Speer - May God bless  
you & yours most richly with His  
comfort & His own presence.

Affectionately yours,

Elizabeth Dodge Huntington

Please do not even try to answer  
this for I know you must be  
overwhelmed with letters. That  
is why I did not write at once  
but I cannot help writing now  
to send my love.

Mrs Geo. Howorth -



45 Gurney Park

My dear Mrs Speer:-

Mr Howorth

and I wish to extend to  
you & Mr Speer our deepest  
sympathy on the tragic  
death of your son.

I remember so well  
bearing him much in

our church and thinking what  
a fortunate thing it was to have  
such a young man as he enter  
the ministry. He had so much  
vitality & personality — a thing  
greatly needed in all religious  
work. To see him cut down

just in the midst of his  
life's work is indeed a great  
shock and an irreparable loss.

Very sincerely yours

Merrill Jewell Howarth

~~ack 1~~

100 Woodford Road  
Pittsburgh  
September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Dear Mrs. Speer,

I have been thinking  
of you and Dr. Speer constantly  
ever since I heard of the terrible  
tragedy which has come into  
your lives.

I wish I could say all that  
I feel but may I send to you

with my deepest sympathy.

My heart aches for you as  
you face this great sorrow.

May God bring comfort to you.

Sincerely

Marianne Hamilton

ack;

HILL HOLLOW FARM  
NEW HOPE, PENNSYLVANIA

Monday.

Dearest EBS.

As I picture the many many letters  
you will be receiving, I know what  
troads of love and comfort will be coming  
to you - and how I long to have you  
know of my love and deep understanding  
without making you read another letter.

I called up Englewood as I woke up  
this morning determined to go to  
the place where I could just catch your  
eye or squeeze your hand as a way  
of telling you of my remembering but  
when word came to me of the Lord, of  
your coming, I found I couldn't  
come fast enough - and so I



must come only in this poor way -

Every thought of you brings you to my mind as enveloped in the love and peace of God through His Holy Spirit and the blessedness of feeling His Comfort.

The verse that keeps coming to me as I think of Elliott is

"It is enough that the disciple be as His Master" and so he was and so he gave his life in courageous, selfless service -

And as I write, I pray, and know that God will take my love and longing and give what I cannot give through words -  
Yours ever more & more loving Louisa

Deepest sympathy.

or

MRS. MILTON EDWARD HEDGECOCK

and family

241 Lincoln Ave

Ridgewood, N.Y.

Deepest Sympathy.

GW

Em

Miss Haines

Oswayo

E. Wolfenso

24

My heart goes out to  
you in tender, loving  
sympathy!

May our Father show His  
Great Love to you now.

ack

Mrs. Thomas Merrin Harrison

Raleigh, N. C.

over.

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God Knows Best

Dr. + Mrs. Robert E. Speer,

With deep sympathy

from

Mrs. Geo. W. Haines,

3724 N. 13<sup>th</sup> St.,

Phila., Pa.

Sept. 1934.

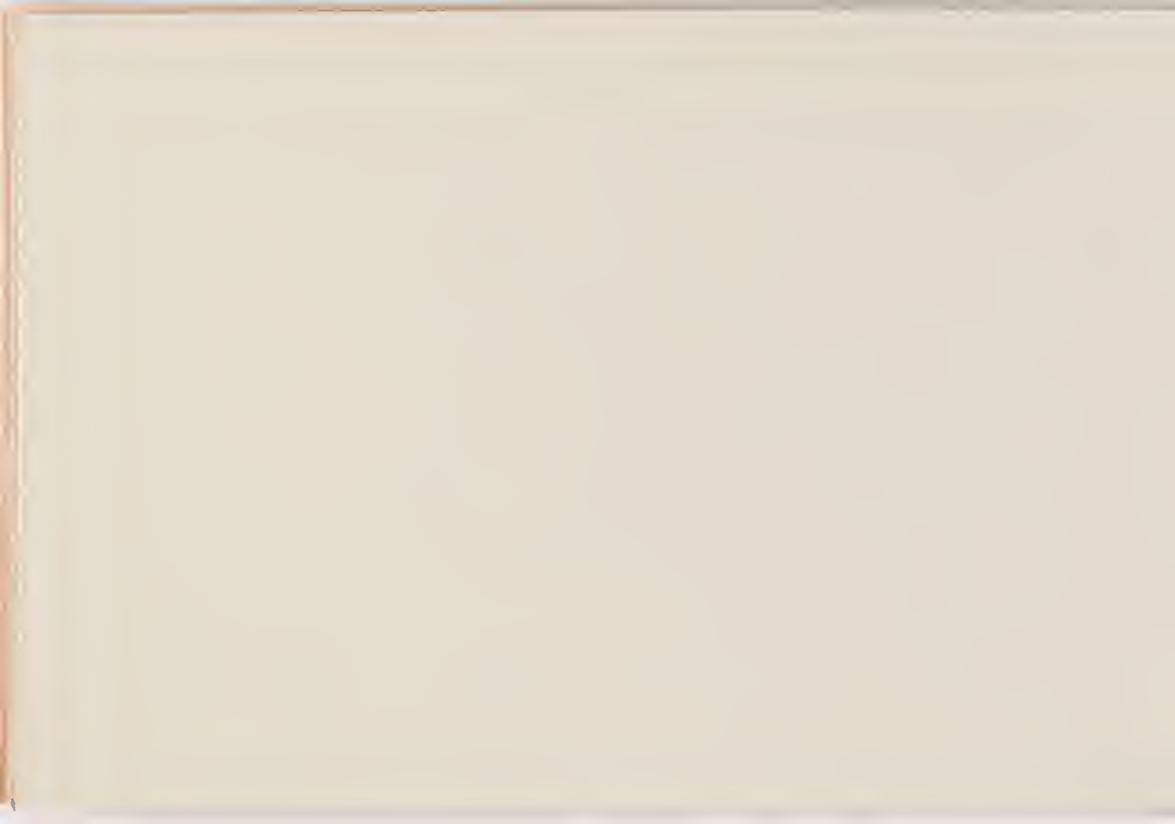
GOD KNOWS BEST.

*Some time, when all life's lessons have been learned,  
And sun and stars forevermore have set,  
The things which our weak judgment here has spurned,  
The things o'er which we grieved with lashes wet,  
Will flash before us out of life's dark night,  
As stars shine most in deeper tints of blue;  
And we shall see how all God's plans are right.  
And how what seemed reproof was love most true.*





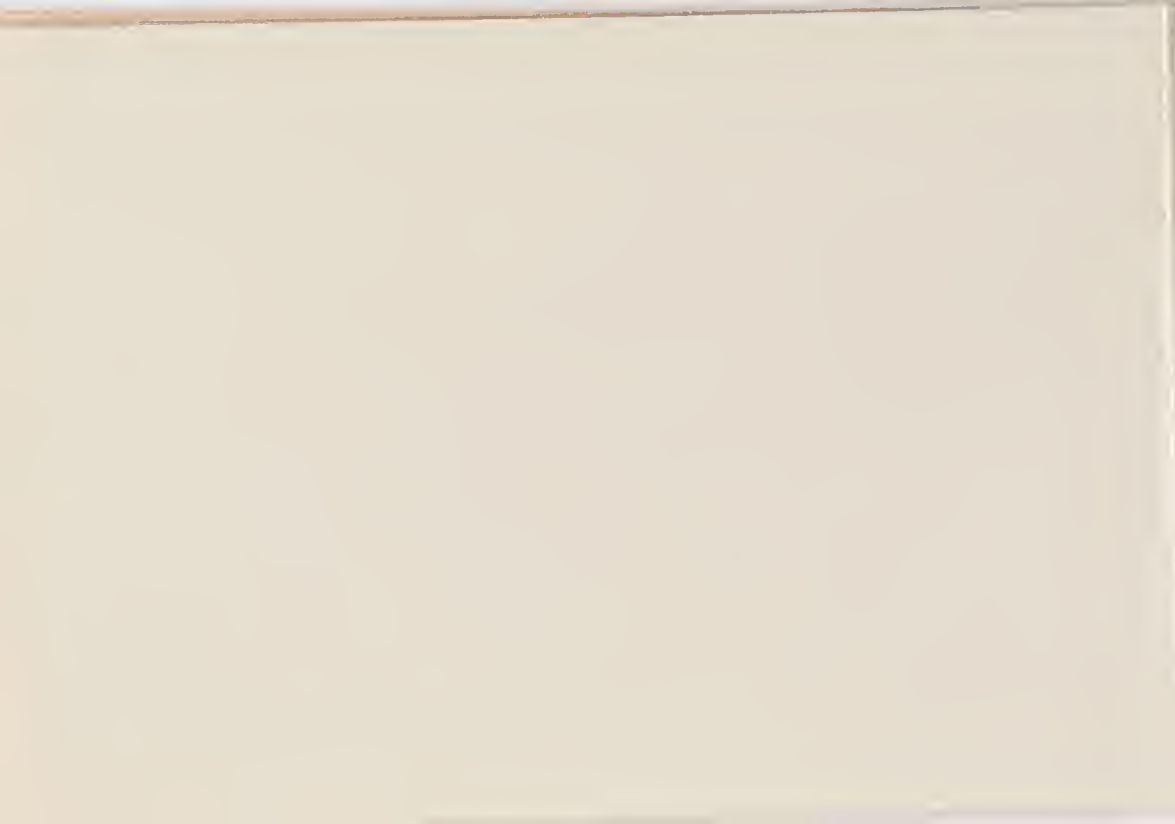
*And we shall see that while we frown and sigh,  
God's plans go on as best for you and me;  
How when we called He heeded not our cry,  
Because His wisdom to the end could see;  
And e'en as prudent parents disallow  
Too much of sweet to craving babyhood,  
So God, perhaps, is keeping from us now  
Life's sweetest things because it seemeth good.*



*And if some time, commingled with life's wine,  
We find the wormwood, and rebel and shrink,  
Be sure a wiser hand than yours or mine  
Pours out this potion for our lips to drink;  
And if some friend we love is lying low,  
Where human kisses cannot reach his face,  
Oh! do not blame the loving Father so,  
But bear your sorrow with obedient grace.*



*And you shall shortly know that lengthened breath  
Is not the sweetest gift God sends his friends;  
And that, sometimes, the sable pall of death  
Conceals the fairest boon His love can send.  
If we could push ajar the gates of life,  
And stand within, and all God's workings see,  
We could interpret all this doubt and strife,  
And for each mystery could find a key.*



*But not today. Then be content, poor heart,  
God's plans, like lilies pure and white, unfold;  
We must not tear the close-shut leaves apart;  
Time will reveal the calyxes of gold.  
And if through patient toil we reach the land  
Where tired feet, with sandals loose, may rest;  
Then we shall clearly know and understand,  
I think that we shall say that "God knew best."*

*(Copied.)*





017

MANSE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
210 W. MADISON STREET  
BALTIMORE, MD.

Sept. 17-1934

Robert E. Spear

Dear Robert

It is difficult to express to you  
the sorrow I feel for you and for  
your dear ones. It is deep deep sympathy  
- suffering with and for.

The mystery of this great calamity  
is staggering - just finding out.

There are many thousands  
over the whole world whose your  
name is known and loves who  
will be sharing with you in prayer  
communion and fellowship.

I am writing to remind you

of my deep affection

Lovingly I am,  
L. Wood

In all this my wife heartily joins.

From Mrs. Lamb

1690 FRANKLIN AVENUE  
COLUMBUS, OHIO

57

17th September 1934

My dear Robert:

Allow me to offer a word of deepest sympathy in the terrible blow that has suddenly fallen on you in the passing of your dear son Elliott. Our hearts bleed for you. I can only remind you of the source of comfort well known to you, our loving Father.

Annabel joins in this message of sincere sympathy. Please extend it to Mrs. Speer. Of course no reply is expected.

Ever fraternally yours,  
Mrs. H. Hannum

WINDOVER  
BAKERS MILLS  
NEW YORK

Dear Dad: -

We are of that great  
multitude from all over the world who  
go with you this day to be thank of  
the mysterious valley, rejoicing with you,  
in celebrating for you, and thanking God  
for the magnificent table tops of this great  
selection through Christ our Saviour.

What has happened is, as you say,  
beyond reality or imagination. God  
will have something beyond Methodist  
for those glorified young life, an invisible  
bullet cannot even interrupt its program.  
I would tell you - "the program falls through"  
God tells you! We love you.  
Sept 19<sup>th</sup> - M. S. Hudson

57

New Rochelle, N.Y.  
155 Centre Avenue

September - 16<sup>th</sup> 1934

Doctor Robert E. Speer -  
156. Fifth Ave.  
New York -

My dear Doctor:-

My heart goes out to you  
in deepest sympathy - in the loss  
of your dear Son -

My prayers and those of my wife -  
go up to God for you and yours  
in this your hour of need -

"Blessed be God ~~over~~ the Father of  
our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of  
all mercies and the God of all Compassion"

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation"  
To Him I commend you.

Most sincerely  
Charles J. Haulenbeck

57

20 FOREST STREET  
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Sept. 15, 1934

My dear Dr. Speer:

What can one say after reading the terrible, astounding news in this morning's paper? Human sympathy at such a time is powerless to help, especially where those who mourn know the only One who can comfort. And yet I cannot do anything else until this word of sympathy is written, which needs no acknowledgment.

The Lord graciously sustain you.

Sincerely,

John P. Hill



57

Chestnut Hill, Pa.

16<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1934.

My dear Robert:

I was greatly shocked to learn of the death of your son this morning; and wish to express to you my deep sorrow and heart-felt sympathy for you and Mrs. Speer. My thoughts and prayers are with you in this dark hour.

I am going back to Spain the end of October, but hope to see you in New York before I sail. You were out of town when I called, a few weeks ago.

Yours affly.

W. Harris

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Prince George Hotel

Fifth Avenue & 28<sup>th</sup> Street

New York

ALBURN M. GUTTERSON  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

My dear Mr & Mrs Speer:

It is almost time for me to go to my steamer as I am sailing for Rio - but after reading of your great sorrow I wish to hastily write and assure you of both Mr Harris and my loving sympathy - Those

everlasting arms of love are  
enfolding you and Gods rich  
promises are comforting you  
and His grace is sufficient -

Ever most sincerely

Mrs Herbert S. Harris

Saturday noon -

57

116 West Clinton Ave  
Tenafly N.J.

My dear Mr + Mrs Spicer

No words of mine can  
ever convey what is in my  
heart for you both

Love and deepest sympathy

Virginia C. Hayler

Sept 15 - 1934

57  
BELLEVUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HERBERT BEECHER HUDNUT  
BELLEVUE, PITTSBURGH, PA.

September 20 1934

Dr Robert E Speer  
General Secretary, Board of Foreign Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue, New York N Y

Dear Dr Speer:

We were so shocked to read of the great tragedy which has come to your family in the death of your son. I think my brother and his wife visited in your son's home in July, and I know that he held your son in the very highest esteem. I never had the privilege of meeting him, but know that he was following in his Father's foot-steps.

We remembered you in our morning prayers Sunday, September 16th, in our church service, and we have heard many expressions of sympathy for you and yours from your many friends in Pittsburgh, and especially in the Presbytery.

Your devoted friend,

Herbert

---

092

Haverhill, Mass.

Sept. 18/34.

Dear Mrs. Sprer.

You will be flooded with letters but I cannot  
restrain from sending you my words of heartfelt sym-  
pathy in the unspeakable tragedy of your son's death.  
I never knew him but I know your son at Andover  
(he was my boy's floor-master last year) and through  
him I seem almost to have known your son Elliott.  
There is nothing that I can say or write that any  
human tongue can say that can bring you any thro.  
Sprer any comfort or assurance that will not come  
to you directly from the Source, but it may mean  
something to you to know that there are thousands

Whom lives you have touched who are surrounding  
you with their love and their prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Hermann Nagelorn.

Dr. Robert S. Spurr,  
New York.

576

PHILIP E. HOWARD  
301 WEST SCHOOL LANE  
GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

1  
Sept 20, 34

My dear Rob:-

It isn't that I can't hope to say anything to lessen the unspeakable grief that is yours just now, but I do want you to know that my heart goes out to you and Emma with a depth of sympathy entirely beyond any expression in words. In all this Arthur joins me, with old-time affection, and with earnest prayer for your sustaining.

You who have brought comfort and trust into so many, many lives will surely have at this time abundant grace in the meeting of this fiery trial. May our Father be in deed very presently your Father in this hour of deep need.

Affectionately your old friend  
Phil



ack.  
Oct. 11 -  
G.P.S.

3448 Potomac Avenue  
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mrs. Spurr: -

Rec'd "Mrs. Kates" from  
headquarters bring the sad  
information of your recent  
great bereavement, and my  
thoughts have gone out to you  
and the sorrowing members  
of your beloved family, with  
such heart felt sympathy.

I know you and Dr. Spurr are finding those  
precious memorials and I pray that His  
most gracious Presence may rest upon you  
and comfort your hearts.

With my affection: always.

Faithfully your friend.

Sallie L. Hanna

(Mrs. John H.)

October Third.

I know words convey so little,  
but I do want you to know how  
much I sorrow with you, while I  
thank God that you do know that  
Comforter who can speak words of  
eternal Comfort and Strength.

This life, and the continuing life  
seem so completely one, when a  
vital, vigorous life passes on, and  
we live so in the atmosphere of  
that eternal personality, which  
seems ever more real, as the  
days go by.

To our loved President

Oct 11-  
1875.

Guilherme Nelson,

To greet you and  
welcome you here to  
us and to your work  
which is such a "balm  
for hurt minds."

These flowers tell of  
the loving sympathy  
and faith of your  
friends of the

Missionary Society of the  
First Church.

517

192 So. Franklin St.  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Spear.

I feel I must  
send some slight expression  
at least of my deep and  
sincere sympathy for you  
both in your tragic, irreparable  
loss.

Elliott was so splendid,  
so fine in every way, so  
greatly needed in this world

necessary to acknowledge this note. I  
just wanted to send some little word.

Very sincerely,

Anna M. Hollenback

and just where he was.  
We all loved and admired  
him.

It is such a great and  
seemingly impenetrable  
mystery.

I know the surwaving  
faith and trust that you  
both possess and which  
have been a blessing to so  
many others, will be your  
anchor in this time of great  
need-

Please do not feel it



(57)

4215 East 53<sup>rd</sup> St.

Seattle, Wn.

Dear Dr and Mrs Speer,

Our hearts go out to you in deepest sympathy in this unbelievable sorrow that has come to you. All we know is a tiny article in our local paper, but it is enough to make us realize, a tiny bit at least, what an appalling experience you have had to face, and we

do want you to know we  
are thinking and caring.

When our little Frederick  
was taken Dr Speer's note  
was one of the first to reach  
us from this country, and we  
did appreciate it. I wonder  
if there notes that Henry  
Hodgkin gave to us after the  
service he held at that time  
may help to bring the  
ministry of healing to you  
dear people. .

Our love and prayers are  
with you.

Walter and Frederica Hiltner.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
FREDERICK MEAD HILTNER

CALLED HOME

13 April, Easter Monday, 1925

-----

"Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place  
whereon thou standest is holy ground."

We all remember the occasion when these words were used. Moses had lived forty years amid the sights and sounds of the great wilderness. They had been years of preparation of spirit. Without doubt he had come to realize God's presence in the every day occurrences and in the common objects. The Lord had become more real to him in those long years. Now suddenly he is faced by a new, unexpected and inexplicable phenomenon. The common bush is burning and it is not consumed. And from the midst of this strangeness comes the Voice of God.

Here are we gathered in this room to face a fact, startling in its suddenness, overwhelming in its effect upon our loved ones, something which no words can explain or account for. The voice of God comes to us in this moment and as our hearts are still before Him we hear the words "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

Let us remind ourselves first that it is those who see God in the ordinary things who have eyes to recognize Him in the unusual and perplexing circumstances. The eyes which have not learned to look for God in the familiar will miss Him in the unfamiliar. Jesus reminds us of this when He says, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if one rise from the dead." To our dear friends even this hour may be an hour not of darkness but of light an hour when God comes very near to them as a loving Father, because they have learned to see His Fatherly Hand day by day and are accustomed to turn to Him at all times.

And may we not go further and say that it is at such a moment as this that we get the clearest sense of the difference Christ has made? It is a beautiful thing to remember that this little life has been lifted into the larger sphere in the Easter season. What a world of difference between the Christian and the non-Christian at the hour of death! The unrelieved sorrow or the imitation of it which we know so well--what are they but an expression of the absolute blank, the hopelessness which death brings without Christ. In Him we see beyond the grave and death is the portal to the larger life. "Their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in Heaven."

It certainly is not that our love for our dear ones is less than that of those who thus sorrow. What tender love and in what abundance has already gone out to the beautiful baby boy who has been taken from us! But there is a golden glory and the sunset when the little life sets, for there is a sure hope of the new day even for him. "In Christ shall he be made alive." The same Lord who tenderly lifted the

children to His knees and blessed them may have a place in the eternal mansions not only for the tried and trusted servant but also for the "least of these".

Yes we do sorrow--and our sorrow is a token to the depth of a love which springs up in our hearts because He first loved us. But we sorrow not as those who have no hope. We dare to speak of the glory to be revealed. We comfort ourselves and one another with this hope. These little feet which had not yet learned to walk have led us into a very sacred spot where all we can do is to stand in reverent wonder not daring to ask why? but only who? If we listen thus I think we shall find that the little one brings us near to One who says, in infinitely tender tones, "It is I: be not afraid: with Me he is safe".

Even now the dear parents can say, I am sure, that they are thankful that this life has been entrusted to them though for so short a time. He has brought to them many things which can never be put into words. Now as we face the great blank left by one who was here for so few days, we, their friends, may be in some sense, the mediators of God's gift to our loved ones. We can join in the longing of our hearts that the going of the little son may make Heaven seem nearer, that a flood of sunshine may break through the clouds because he has, in stepping through, as it were, opened a door and let in the light.

Let us then pause for a few minutes and try to put ourselves in the place where our loving Father can use us to bring this ministry of healing to the hearts of our friends. The ground whereon we stand is holy ground. Let us be still and know that here is God, our Father.

After silence.

Our father who givest life, we recognize that death also is Thy gift. It is not hard to see this when Thou givest to the old and infirm who have learned to walk with Thee here. But our faith is tested when Thou givest death to so young and sweet a life. Oh, Father, May our hearts learn to accept Thy gifts and trust Thy love in the darkest hour. Now through the darkness show to our loved ones the shining of the Face they know and love so well, and even in this moment may the night shine as the day.

And this we ask in the name of Him in whom we see the glory of Thy Face. Amen.

(57)

Dear Friends -

Our hearts are so full  
that we must send just  
a word - You have meant  
so much to us through  
these years that we love  
you more than you know  
and we are constantly in  
prayer for you now - We  
know your faith and we  
know the Father has his

living arms about you.  
God bless you both for  
in this too you will lead  
us all out into a new  
and fuller meaning of  
faith and trust as you  
have so many times  
before -

Faithfully Yours

Lindsay Mary Hadley

Portland  
New York -

" CLOVELLY "

WHITE PLAINS

NEW YORK

Deep and heart-felt sympathy  
and prayers of myself  
and family in this time  
of bereavement

Most sincerely

Your friend

Arthur H. Weston

57

" CLOVELLY "  
WHITE PLAINS  
NEW YORK

Dear Dr. Speer;

Just why God  
in His Providence permits such  
things to happen, we do not  
know but in our human  
way without full knowledge  
we can register our horror  
at the dastardly and cowardly  
deed that has brought such  
a shock to you and your  
family.  
You surely do have the



579  
94 JORALEMON STREET  
BROOKLYN, N. Y

September 28

Dear Dr. Speer -

I have not written to you before because I had such strained and bitter feelings in my heart that I was afraid these would show and only add to your burden. These feelings have changed now, and the change is due not only to my prayers for you and your family, and for

cannot be shaken by any hap-  
pening. Whatever help and  
strength you are getting from  
the love and fellowship of your  
friends, we are getting back  
from you in fullest measure.

yours most affectionately,

Constance M. Hallock

myself, but also to an understanding - however faint - of what your experience of God's love and care has been, to enable you to write as you have to your friends here. You speak of good coming out of evil - it is no small good which has come to all who have been associated with you in any way, from seeing that the foundations of your life are not and

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GIRARD COLLEGE  
PHILADELPHIA

SEPT. 20, 1934.

My dear Robert:

Mrs. Herick and I have had  
Mrs. Speer and your good self  
much in our thought. Our  
prayer is that the God of all  
Comfort may sustain and bless  
you with that comfort which  
He only can give. Your friends  
who are legion have had  
you on their hearts.

With affectionate goodwishes,

Yours faithfully

Chessie Herick

57

"BOXWOOD"  
156 SCHOOL LANE  
GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA, PENN.

My dear Cousins:

It is with a feeling of deep sympathy for you that I heard of the shock and grief that has come to you in the sudden call of your brilliant son, Elliott.

May the God of all comfort who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ comfort you in your sorrow. Please

extend my sympathy also to Elliott's  
wife and children.

With kind regards, believe me  
very sincerely

Mary Huston Haines

Sept 19<sup>th</sup>.  
1934

## Crushed? Nay Shaped!

"Why hast thou crushed me, Lord  
Unless for some sweet purpose of Thine own  
Has pride so filled my envious heart,  
That only sternness can be shown?

Nay, rather may I dare to feel  
That 'neath the shell lies perfume rare  
Which only bruising can reveal  
And scatter forth upon the air?

If such be so, then will I yield  
This stubborn heart to every blow.  
Now raise a hand to thwart or shield  
From what Thou dost in love bestow.

Yea, Lord, I know Thy love so true  
Would'st mold and shape me in Thy grace  
That from love's furnace, pure and new  
The dross from out the gold Thou may'st efface.

Then give me strength, beneath Thy hand,  
To suffer, Lord, and yet be still;  
To know Thee near, e'en when in pain,  
To know that love alone is in Thy will.

If perfume in my soul there be  
That comfort could to others bring  
Whate'er it takes to set it free,  
I'll suffer, Lord, and through it sing

Thy precious peace can come in pain  
That peace alone my heart doth crave  
Forever in my heart abide and reign  
Held by Thy love, I am Thy slave."



Copies may be secured from  
E. Joy Hillis, 1124 Laveta Terrace, Los Angeles, Cal.  
10c per doz.; 60c per 100

ack. WPH.

MRS. W. EUGENE HICKS  
115 Garrison Avenue  
Jersey City, N. J.

Dear Mrs. Spurr, -

The board of directors of the Young Women's Christian Association of Jersey City, at a meeting held recently, asked me to write you to express our sincere sympathy in your recent great sorrow.

When our loved ones are ill and pass on, we try and feel they are relieved of suffering and it is better so, but to be stricken in perfect health, seems a hard test of one's faith.

There is no other power to help us over hard places but His power, is there and I know you both are clinging fast



There are so many beautiful and comforting promises in God's word to turn to in just such a time as this.

May the peace that peace promised to all who love Him fill your hearts and minds just now, is our sincere and loving prayer for you.

Somewhere I read this comment on the twenty-third Psalm:

"In pasture green" not always; sometimes in weary ways, where heavy shadows be, He who runneth bet. in kindness leadeth

<sup>me.</sup>  
And by still waters? no, not always so,  
Uptimes the heavy tempests round  
<sup>me</sup> blow

and for my soul the waves and  
pillows go!

But when the storm beats landed  
and I cry aloud for help,  
The Master stands by, and whispers  
to my soul, "Lo, it is I."

So, where He leads me, I can safely go,  
And in the blast hereafter I shall know  
Why, in His wisdom, He hath led me so.  
(The author is unknown.)

Please convey our sympathy to  
your husband also.

Very sincerely yours,  
May E. Hicks,  
sec. pro tem.

Thursday, October fourth, thirty-four.

57

REV. JAMES M. HOWARD  
THE PRESBYTERIAN MANSE  
MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

September 27, 1934.

My dear Dr. Speer, —

I would not add a straw to the burden you are carrying, so please do not consider this a letter to be answered. Nevertheless I know you will permit me to express something of the concern and sympathy your friends in Morristown feel at the shocking event which has brought the shadow of bereavement into your family.

Words are of little weight at such a time. We can but

thank God for the faith, hope and  
love which are yours in Christ, and  
for deep anchorage in the unshakable  
assurance of God and immortality!

Faithfully yours,

James M. Howard.

MAIL  
WHITEFACE, ESSEX CO. N.Y.  
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE  
LAKE PLACID, N.Y.

(57)

CAMP THEANOGRAN

My dear Doctor and Mrs. Speer,

May I send you my deep and abiding and understanding sympathy in your crushing sorrow.

Our Heavenly Father "never takes away what He has once given" — I know He will give you a priceless

blessing.

Affectionately

Mary Byers Hatfield

September twentieth.

1165 Dept Ave

Ny N.Y.

67

HOMER HAMMONTREE  
6121 SHERIDAN ROAD  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

September 19, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
Princeton Theological Seminary  
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Just a line to tell you how very sorry I am to know of the awful tragedy. I do sympathize with you from the depths of my heart and am praying for you. At such a time as this, words mean little. But I just wanted you to know that I am remembering you before the Throne of Grace that you may be comforted by Him who alone is able to comfort.

Your sympathizing friend,

*Homer Hammontree*  
*I Thes 4:13-18.*

Deepest sympathy

ad.

Mrs. Horace Milton Hauser

Marblehead

Massachusetts



575  
/

317 NORTH SPRING STREET  
BELLEFONTE  
PENNSYLVANIA

Dec. 23, 1934.

Dear Robert & Susan

While I was visiting  
in Mansfield N.J. I read of  
the very sad experience you  
and your family passed  
through. There must be a  
very great blessing to be  
worked out. It was far-  
more merciful than our-  
Lord's death. What blessings  
have followed from it,

It was more merciful to have  
to be shot with a gun, that  
lingers and causes painful  
agony -

What a splendid young man  
your son must have been,  
his influence will live on.

I was told by a Princeton  
Alumnus, he was spoken  
of as the President of Princeton  
but it was decided he was too  
young -

I remember with so much  
pleasure meeting you -  
Daughter - Margaret - Clara

Her best year at New Haven.  
I have give my deepest sympathy  
to her and to Mrs. Spier.

The consolation you have  
found so many others.

As said in our God  
will keep you. I have

found His comfort very  
lasting. May you all have His blessing.

Yours sincerely,  
John May.

John May

The Bitchin - Gouda - Edinborough

ack

MRS. H. R. HAMMER  
715 HIGH STREET  
POTTSTOWN, PENNA.

Tuesday.

My dearest M -

I can only send you  
lunch lunch love, and tell you that  
I think about you all the time.

And I remember Elliott with such  
pleasure when I knew him as  
a small boy out in Eaglewood  
and up at Camp. Then we saw  
each other little for a long  
time, and my next warm proud  
recognition of him was when I

met his Spirit out in Love. The  
Ritchies told me how pleased  
they had been with him when he  
came there, and they told of his  
happy welcome and the glad ap-  
preciation of him in Edinburgh. It  
seemed to me just what you most  
wanted him to be.

And now - so swiftly the  
No! light is put out, and the darkness  
is sudden and great - and aching.

I wish I could do something  
comforting for you, and for Marnie  
and Patsy and Billy and Mr. Speer,  
but I can't. Your loving  
Christine -

adv /

THE BARN  
NEW HOPE, PENNSYLVANIA

September 28<sup>th</sup> 1934.

Dear Mrs. Speer,

You have been so  
much on my heart that I  
haven't been able to put  
any words on paper and  
now I can't do anything.  
I know you have found the  
strength that you need  
and I know you have  
found comfort if there

was swept to the ground  
and I know that whatever  
comes to you brings you  
nearer to God and gives  
you deeper understanding  
of the strong and weak and  
of beauty and ugliness.

A few days before the  
fourteenth I had thought of  
Marion and Elliott, the  
first man who said to me:  
"I will tell my mother, Mrs. Speer"  
and I loved his baby way.

Affectionately,

Marion.

ack.



My dear Mrs Green, I am  
sharing with you in  
that overwhelming sorrow.

God has my prayers —  
I send you sympathy & my affectionately  
Believe me, dear Mrs Green,  
Yours truly,  
Wm. G. S. Howard

Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>



ack.

RESTWELL FARM  
NEWTOWN, CONN.

Sunday.

Dear, dear Mrs. Speer.

A friend, coming out  
of church, today, told us  
of the terrible snow that  
has come to you & Dr. Speer.  
Words are but futile things,  
but all I can say is that  
I am praying for you all,  
& loving you. I need not  
tell you, who already know  
"so well", of the blessed  
comfort of Jesus, & those  
wonderful Everlasting Arms.

that engold & tenderly those  
who mourn. May the great  
Comforter bring peace to you,  
dear Mrs. Spear. The memory  
of your son's life & beautifully  
lived, is a consolation. I wish  
I could see you & put my  
arms around you. Letters are  
such poor things at best, but  
I know you understand what  
I would say.

God bless you all, & give  
you strength.

With Deepest Sympathy  
Isabel Hoar.

Mrs. Duggan has just come in, &  
wants you to know how deeply she  
feels for you. She too sends you her

519

With sympathy beyond  
words. May God comfort  
and sustain all of you.

5 Bryant St.

Cambridge Mass

Earl C. Hamilton

529  
Messrs. Lynch & Co. -  
Mrs. Edward Cummings, Hartshorne

Englewood, N. J.

619

MURRAY SHIPLEY HOWLAND  
80 VESTAL AVENUE  
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Speer,

Mrs. Howland and I send  
to you and Mrs. Speer our  
deaf sympathy in your terrible  
tragedy. We have all been  
deeply stirred by your sorrow  
and by <sup>the</sup> ending of a life that  
gave such promise of far-reaching  
influence. I know the  
noble way in which you will  
both bear your sorrow

Faithfully  
Murray Shipley Howland

September 23, 1934

Every thought of you and your loved ones here and in China is a prayer that in sharing "the fellowship of His suffering" you may be able to comfort

Mrs. Margaret Elizabeth Hodge  
there with the comfort wherewith you yourselves are comforted of God. May you constantly realize His love and presence.

112 West Gravers Lane  
Chestnut Hill

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
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J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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 NL = Night Letter  
 LC = Deferred Cable  
 NLT = Cable Night Letter  
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Received at Flatiron Bldg., New York City.

NBH445 15=MONTROSE PENN 17 125P

1934 SEP 17 PM 1 47

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

DR AND MRS ROBERT SPEER, CARE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS=  
 156 FIFTH AVE=

SHOCKED TO HEAR TODAY OF YOUR GREAT SORROW STOP ACCEPT OUR  
 LOVE AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY=

CHARLES L AND ANNIE S HUSTON.

R. E. Speer

SEP 17 1934

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS OF SERVICE

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R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
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Received at

GR164 9 3 EXTRA=PITTSBURGH PENN VIA NEWYORK NY 15  
 DR ROBERT E SPEER=CARE MRS ELLIOTT SPEER  
 M THERMON MASS=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

MY HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO YOU ALL

=STUART N HUTCHISON

.(826AP).



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# WESTERN UNION (25)

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NEWCOMB CARLTON  
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Received at Flatiron Bldg., New York City.

1934 SEP 15 AM 10 27

NBH146 14=ZA CHICAGO ILL 15 913A

REV ROBERT E SPEER, DD=  
156 FIFTH AVE=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

PLEASE ACCEPT MY PROFOUND SYMPATHY AM DEEPLY SHOCKED AT THE TRAGEDY OF ELLIOTTS DEATH=

SELDEN L HAYNES.

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRISTIANITY

My Dear Robert:

I wish I could tell you how deeply I sympathize with you and your dear wife in the overwhelming sorrow that has come so suddenly upon you. May God bless and comfort you. And, indeed, you have a great source of comfort in the reflection that your boy was a true and loyal Christian. He is with

our Heavenly Father and nothing  
evil can ever happen to him now.

I hope to see you soon

Faithfully & affectionately

Stanley & Hughes

18 Sept. 1934.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter  
 NM = Night Message  
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 NLT = Cable Night Letter  
 Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR61 7=STAMFORD CONN SEP 15 1030A

MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

NORTHFIELD MASS=

NATIONAL STAFF SEND YOU YOU LOVE AND SYMPATHY=

EMMA P HIRTH.

1209P

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

*Auto.  
sent 12:00*

678



# The Parkside

*Eighteen Gramercy Park*  
SOUTH  
NEW YORK

Sept. 26, 1934

Dear Dr. Speer:

I just want to let you know of my deep sympathy in the tragedy that has come to you and your family. Elliott and I were close at Princeton, as you doubtless remember. And I recall especially the time at Northfield in 1919 after a vital spiritual experience had come to each of us, that we witnessed together

To a group of some 40 fellows. I  
remember his saying at that time—  
"Frank Buchanan calls it pentecost,  
but I call it dynamite."

May you be sustained and  
strengthened, as I know you, in  
the marvellous victory that is  
ours in Christ.

With affectionate regards—  
Chas (Haines)

118

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
LAKE AVE., ATCHISON ST. AND WOODBURY ROAD  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

M. K. W. HEICHER, PH. D.  
MINISTER

September 22, 1924.

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:-

Mrs. Heicher and I  
feel deeply with you in this your time  
of sorrow. We have no words to express  
our sympathy, but shall pray for the divine  
comfort to be given you in all its  
fulness.

You need not reply to this note; its  
only purpose is to let you know that  
our hearts go out to you in love and  
compassion.

Most sincerely yours,  
M. K. W. Heicher

178

Buena Memorial Presbyterian Church

REV. HENRY HEPBURN, D. D., PASTOR

SHERIDAN ROAD AND BROADWAY  
NEAR MONTROSE AVENUE

STUDY, 4301 SHERIDAN ROAD  
PHONE LAKE VIEW 3511

CHICAGO. Sept. 28-1934

My dear Doctor Speer:- Your name has  
been upon the lips of many in Buena  
Memorial during these days as well as  
in my prayers. May the dear Lord  
give strength and undrows comfort  
to you and your family during these  
dramatic days.

As ever  
Faithfully yours  
Henry Hepburn



STANLEY ARMSTRONG HUNTER, D. D., PASTOR  
WILLISTON WIRT,  
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
LEWIS B. HILLIS, D. D., STUDENT PASTOR  
ADELAIDE KIBBE, M. D., MESHEH, PERSIA

578

ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2640 COLLEGE AVENUE  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE BERKELEY 4585

ARTHUR W. MARCH, HANGCHOW, CHINA  
L. H. KIBBE, CLERK OF SESSION  
ALFRED W. HINCKS, CHURCH TREASURER  
NOEL H. JACKS, TREAS. OF BENEVOLENCES

September 25, 1934.

Robert E. Speer, D. D.,  
24 Gramercy Park,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

You and Mrs. Speer and all the family have been much in our thoughts of late, but I have hesitated to write you as I know you must be receiving such a number of letters that they possibly are becoming a burden. However, Elizabeth and I feel that we must tell you that we are remembering you in our prayers.

On the first Sunday after the word of the tragedy reached us, you were remembered in our pastoral prayer. All who knew Elliott loved him.

The lines which Rudyard Kipling wrote after the death of his brother-in-law come to mind.

"He scarce had need to doff his pride or slough the dross of Earth --  
E'en as he trod that day to God so walked he from his birth,  
In simpleness and gentleness and honour and clean mirth."

As one thinks of his sudden transition, surely he crowded into his brief years a lifetime of service and left a record of which his friends may well be proud.

Sincerely yours,

*Stanley A. Hunter*

018

WILLIAM A. JOHNSTON  
CHIEF JUSTICE  
ROUSSEAU A. BURCH  
JOHN S. DAWSON  
W. W. HARVEY  
WM. EASTON HUTCHISON  
WILLIAM A. SMITH  
WALTER G. THIELE  
JUSTICES

E. E. CLARK, CLERK  
HOWARD F. MCCUE, REPORTER

# The Supreme Court of Kansas

Topeka

September 15, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I write at once to express my most sincere sympathy to you and family in the very sore bereavement you have sustained in the tragic death of your son.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. Easton Hutchison*

WEH:a

# WORLD'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

A WORLD FEDERATION OF FORTY-SIX NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INTERDENOMINATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

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SIR HAROLD MACKINTOSH, HALIFAX, ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
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CHAIRMAN, NORTH AMERICAN COMMITTEE  
HUGH R. MONRO, LL.D., MONTCLAIR, N. J.

CABLE ADDRESS "DAYBREAK" NEW YORK  
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RECORDING SECRETARY  
HUGH S. MAGILL, LL.D., CHICAGO, ILL.

TREASURER  
PAUL STURTEVANT, NEW YORK CITY

September 15 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Mrs. Hopkins and I are greatly shocked and deeply grieved with the news of the tragedy that has taken your son. Will you and Mrs. Speer accept our sincere sympathy in your sorrow.

I am sure you need no word from me to point you to the only source of comfort in a time like this.

Yours brother in Christ

RMH/F

*Robert M. Hopkins*

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS  
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

CORPORATE NAME  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

347 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

September 20, 1934

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Friends:

I was much distressed to learn of the tragic passing of your dear son, Elliott, while engaged in work connected with the opening of the fall semester, and avail myself of this first opportunity since returning to my office to send these very inadequate words of sympathy to you in your sudden bereavement. I can realize something of what this separation means to you both and I know you are leaning heavily on the everlasting arms, looking to our Heavenly Father for that peace which He alone can give. God bless you and give you that strength for each day's need.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

*F. S. Harmon*

F. S. Harmon

FSH:M

678

GEORGE EDMUND HAYNES  
289 FOURTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

September 19, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Our hearts go out to you and Mrs. Speer in these days of your distress. Words are weak and futile at such times but I want to let you know how deeply I sympathize with you and your family. Many years ago I remember your illustration of your small son's calling you in the dark of the night and asking, "Father, have you got your face turned toward me?" In these hours of bereavement and sorrow I know you and your son's family will be comforted by the thought that our Heavenly Father has His face turned toward you.

Yours faithfully  
George Haynes

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer,  
Englewood, N. J.

918

**ROLLINS COLLEGE**

WINTER PARK, FLORIDA

HAMILTON HOLT, PRESIDENT

September 17, 1934

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
24 Gramercy Park  
New York, New York

My dear Doctor Speer:

I was inexpressibly shocked to hear  
of the tragedy that has come to your family, and I  
hasten to extend my sincere sympathy in a loss so over-  
whelming.

Sincerely yours,

*Hamilton Holt*

HH/A

98

The Seventh Presbyterian Church  
East Walnut Hills, Cincinnati

JESSE HALSEY, MINISTER  
2726 CLEINVIEW AVE.

Sept 16. 1934

Dear Doctor Speer -

Our hearts are yours  
in sympathy and understanding.

Open secrets to you are  
the things we learned, but between  
the lines you'll read the things  
that can't be said & that I'd  
like to say.

"My God, why?" Was  
said by our Lord, just as  
we say it. That has helped  
me in face of death & tragedy  
more than any one thing (& like  
him I've tried to go on and say -

"Hither into thy hand -" It is the only  
answer.)

And "one day at a time - there's  
strength for that, always" I learned  
(or <sup>found</sup> tried to) from Malthe's Babcock

May the same Comfort wherewith  
you have heartened us to faith  
and trust, true and again,  
be yours.

With respect & deep affection

So ever

Jane Halsey



98

BEREA COLLEGE  
Berea, Kentucky

Office of the President  
WILLIAM J. HUTCHINS

September twenty-first.

Our dear Dr. and Mrs. Sheer,

We are  
with you down to the ground.  
We should love to help you if  
we might.

Ever yours,

Wm. J. Hutchins.

574  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN INDIA

*North American Advisory Committee*

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

THE FOREIGN MISSIONS CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICA  
AND THE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL

REV. W. I. CHAMBERLAIN, Ph.D., *Chairman*  
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MISS HELEN KITTREDGE, *Treasurer*  
REV. B. C. HARRINGTON, *Executive Secretary*

*Cablegrams:* INMISSION, NEW YORK  
MISSIONS CODE  
*Telephone:* CALEDONIA 5-1271  
EIGHTEENTH FLOOR,  
419 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Sept. 18, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer,-

A typed letter can carry so very poorly the feelings which your great loss occasions. I had never had the privilege of meeting your son but his name and worth were well known. We still hesitate to accept his sudden translation as a reality. Please accept my personal regard and sympathy at this time. I was glad that Karl Thompson, to whom I telegraphed on hearing of the attack, could personally convey my heartfelt concern.

Yours sincerely,

*B. C. Harrington*

57

MATTHEW J. HYNDMAN, D.D.  
PRESIDENT



ORGANIZED 1717



INCORPORATED 1759

# PRESBYTERIAN MINISTERS FUND *for Life Insurance*

1805-1807 WALNUT STREET  
PHILADELPHIA

September 19, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Rockledge,  
Lakeville, Conn.

My dear Dr. Speer:

It was with much distress that I read of the death of your beloved son, Elliott. Words fail to express our feelings on such an occasion. Like the Psalmist, "I was dumb and opened not my mouth."

But our Christian faith urges us to rest more entirely upon the Divine promises of guidance and comfort, in the assurance that the awful deed of the assassin will be overruled.

May a new sense of God's peace and consolation come to Mrs. Speer and you, and to the bereaved wife and family - is the repeated prayer of

Yours Affectionately in the Gospel,

*Matthew J. Hyndman*  
President.

P.S. Matters relating to your son's policies in our Fund will be fully explained in another letter from this office.

078

# SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

OF THE

## SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

I. J. VAN NESS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

BOOK EDITORIAL ROOMS

JOHN L. HILL

NASHVILLE, TENN.

9/25/34

Dear Mr. Speer:

Please accept from one who is greatly indebted to you for both spoken and written messages my deepest sympathy in your tragic sorrow. I know you are finding your refuge and strength in God whom you so nobly serve.

Sincerely yours,

John L. Hill

648

W. A. G. Nordquist  
 1115 1/2  
 Greenwood, N. L.  
 Sept 21, 1934

Dear Brother:-

I am among those who feel ~~(unhappy)~~ that you have not taken an 'out and out' stand against 'Modernism' in the Church (Romans 16")

Now however, in the hours of your sorrow over your son Elliot, whose tragic passing, I noted in the dailies: "I knew your son Elliot and his wife by acquaintance when I studied over at Edinburgh in 1931-2 attending some of the same classes. I vividly remember attending tea at Prof. Macintosh's home and then having the pleasure of being driven back to town in their car.

May the God of Jacob bless you, Dr. Speer. I was noticing in Genesis the other day, how many troubles came to Jacob after his blessing wrestling with the angel at Jabok. His wife Rachel died in child birth, Dinah ravished and sons falling and finally Joseph dead as far as his father knew. I't seems as though saints were blessed with the privilege of going through tribulations <sup>then to</sup> May the Lord bless you as my prayer as also my humble prayer that when I am called to bear my own first tragedy of life myself, I too may be found patient and steadfast.

In the mercy of our God, the Father, who spared not His own Son, but freely delivered Him for us all.

Yours in the love of Christ

David K. Myers. A.B. Th.B.

Princeton <sup>SEM.</sup> 29

P.S. I am happy in evangelistic work here in the west, with E. E. Matteson. We have just enjoyed a great meeting with harvest of souls here at this Country Church. The land is barren, but souls more so in need. L. K. M.

The Presbyterian Hospital.  
168<sup>th</sup> St & Broadway. New York City. N. Y.  
Sept 16<sup>th</sup> / 34

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Speer.

I have my deepest sympathy in  
this terrible bereavement. The Children  
and I were up at Northfield and  
on Friday Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Mr. Speer had  
come all the way to see us and  
tell me how glad he was. <sup>That</sup> Bob my  
Boy would rule Mr. Hermon as a  
freshman.

I cannot express how deeply I  
feel this calamity - and I hope  
the blow will be lightened to  
you all by knowing how  
much your son was loved,  
and respected.

The children join me in  
sympathy for you.

Yours Sincerely,

(Mrs) Jessie M. Hartzell

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PRESBYTERIAN HEADQUARTERS  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Sept.

20th,

1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Doctor:--

I have been away for ten days in North Dakota.

Almost the first thing I am doing on coming back to the office, is to drop you this note of sincerest sympathy and love in view of the terrible circumstances through which you have been called to pass. It all must seem like a nightmare to you. Still, I know that the Christ, Whom you trust will be with you in this hour to make even the darkness all light about you. God grant it.

Lovingly,

*W. R. Harshaw*

W.R. Harshaw,

Secretary,

Presbyterian Headquarters.

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Guatemala, C.A.  
Sep. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1934.

My Dear Dr. & Mrs. Speer:

Word has just reached us of the terrible event in your son's home that so ruthlessly and so suddenly deprived you of the companionship of one whom you had so loved and enjoyed. So I am writing immediately to give expression to our very genuine sympathy with you both.

Please extend our sympathy also to his dear companion — how terrible it must have been for her!

It helps, if in these unusual trials, we try to look on them not as calamities to be borne, but as rare and valuable opportunities to get very much nearer to God, that should by no means be neglected.

You know and I know that there is much in fervent sympathetic prayer. It will comfort you to remember that there is a great army, like some of the assemblies of Revelation among every nation and kindred and tongue and people, who in these days of your sorrow are holding you up in prayer to the God of true consolation. We here are asking God to comfort you <sup>and</sup> give you richly his greater peace.

Yours in Sympathy and Love,

Ed. M. Haymaker and wife.



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156 Fifth Ave  
New York

Sept. 17, 1934.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Speer-

Words are imperfect messengers to convey sympathy at such a time as this. You have my deepest sympathy and prayer for the comfort and guidance of our Heavenly Father.

How little did we think that soon you would be called to test the reality of what Mr. Speer so beautifully presented in our noon prayer service, "No chastisement for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous. Nevertheless, afterwards it yieldeth the peaceable fruits of righteousness." May this be true for you.

Mr. Hall joins in deepest sympathy.

In His name

Ernest Hall

513  
CHARLES D. HILLES  
120 WILLIAM STREET  
NEW YORK

October 5, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Englewood, New Jersey.

Dear Doctor Speer:

I have refrained from writing you in reference to the tragedy because I knew that you already knew of the sympathy of your friends and that nothing I could say would minimize your anguish, and because in the circumstances you were too busily engaged to read a letter of condolence.

Our hearts went out to you and Mrs. Speer. You have had a most shocking experience and one that is wholly undeserved. There is nothing we can do about it, but I must let you know how deeply we have sympathized with you and yours.

Sincerely yours,



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OFFICE OF  
THE STATED CLERK  
OF THE  
NEW CASTLE PRESBYTERY  
NEWARK, DELAWARE

The Rev. Robert E. Speer, D.D.,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer :-

The New Castle Presbytery, meeting in Berlin, Maryland, on October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
instructed me as it's Stated Clerk to express to you and Mrs. Speer its deepest sympathy  
in the tragic death of your noble son.

May God bless you and grant you strength to bear it.

Sincerely yours,

*H. Everett Hallman*  
Stated Clerk.

Newark, Delaware,  
October, 11, 1934.

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44 Alexander St., Princeton N.J.

Sept. 18, 1934.

Mr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 5<sup>th</sup> av.,  
New York.

My dear Dr. Speer:—

Our hearts go out at this time of sad bereavement to you and Mrs. Speer and to your son, Elliott's wife and children. We were shocked to hear of Elliott's untimely death and stand awed before the mystery of God's providence.

We know that nothing that we can say will be adequate to console or to bind up the wound that has been made, but we commit you to a kind heavenly Father, the God of all comfort and grace, confident that He is able to succor and sustain.

Mrs. Hoffmann joins me in this wish and prayer.

Sincerely yours,

R. S. Hoffmann

Prof. Carle R. Hayward, *Chairman*, Quincy  
Wallace M. Ross, *Clerk*, Cambridge

Arthur Perry, *Vice-Chairman*, Boston  
Robert H. Russell, *Vice-Chairman*, Holyoke

Charles E. Ober, *Treasurer*, Beverly  
David Black, *Assistant Treasurer*, Newton

578  
The State Executive Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associations  
of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

(LEGAL TITLE, INCORPORATED AUGUST 17, 1896)

Wilman E. Adams, Boston  
Stephen P. Alden, Brockton  
Aaron C. Bagg, Holyoke  
Dr. Clarence A. Barbour, Providence  
Herbert B. Clark, North Adams  
Edwin O. Childs, Jr., Newton  
Douglas Crocker, Fitchburg  
Allan C. Emery, Weymouth  
B. A. Franklin, Springfield  
Frederic H. Fuller, Providence  
Franklin W. Ganse, Boston

Henry D. Grimes, Lawrence  
L. K. Hall, Springfield  
Herbert W. Horne, Lowell  
Arthur S. Johnson, Boston  
Robert Johnson, Woburn  
John Johnston, Pawtucket  
Charles D. Kepner, Newtonville  
Dr. Norman M. MacLeod, Newport  
Chester R. Martin, Pawtucket  
G. Bruce McCullough, Pawtucket  
Robert L. Moore, Worcester  
Philip M. Morgan, Worcester

Claude E. Patch, Stoneham  
Thomas Perry, Westerly  
Ezra L. Phillips, Gloucester  
H. M. Plimpton, Norwood  
Lawrence Richardson, Boston  
Dr. George M. Shipton, Pittsfield  
Franklin P. Shumway, Melrose  
Elliott Speer, Mount Hermon  
Charles H. White, Providence  
Dr. DeWitt G. Wilcox, Newton Center  
Prof. George G. Wilson, Cambridge  
Horace W. Woodberry, Jr., Beverly

*Secretaries*

Roy E. Coombs  
G. L. Listman L. A. Morhouse

—  
*New England Student Secretary*  
Wilmer J. Kitchen

167 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass.  
September 28, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
The Northfield Schools,  
East Northfield, Mass.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I greatly appreciated your note with the check, carrying out your son's wishes in regard to the purse for Mr. Hearne.

We have already expressed our formal feelings in regard to the recent tragedy by resolutions, and I have written a personal note to Mrs. Speer. I can only add that we all deeply feel the loss to our work in Massachusetts, and we also greatly sympathize with the immediate family, as well as other close friends.

Sincerely yours,

Carle R. Hayward

CRH\*T

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The Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church  
Washington, D. C.

20 September '34

My dear Dr. Owen:

Mrs. Hollister joins in deepest  
sympathy to Mrs. Owen and family.

Those whom you have  
inspired in student days and  
since feel now again our debt  
to you for what you are  
and what you give to us.

Very sincerely,

J. Hillman Hollister

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EDWIN FORREST HALLENBECK  
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN BOLINAS AVENUE  
SAN ANSELMO, CALIFORNIA

Sept 17 / 34

My Dear Dr. Spear:-  
I have  
just now read in the  
morning paper the news of  
your tragic loss. How strange!  
But God lives and loves  
and works.:

May the removal of your  
dear one serve to make  
more real, more comforting  
more triumphant the presence  
of Him who said "Lo I am  
with you all the days".

Be sure of our deep sympathy,  
Mrs Hallenbeck's and mine; and  
our prayers for you and Mrs  
Spear. Very Sincerely,  
E. F. Hallenbeck

018

WESTERN COLLEGE  
OXFORD, OHIO  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 15, 1934

Mr. Robert E. Speer, D. D.  
Board of Foreign Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York

My dear Mr. Speer:

Having recently returned from a trip abroad this summer I had not heard of the tragic news of the death of your son until my arrival home. I have hesitated to write you for various reasons. For one thing this letter comes in such a belated fashion but it could not have come earlier. I have been still more conscious, however, of the fact that many others everywhere, who have a better right to encroach upon your time than I, must also have been wishing to say the things which no one can say under such circumstances as these. I hope you will permit me to express the sympathy that every one must feel for you as you try to live through an experience of this sort. I can only hope for you that the same strength which you have communicated to others in such abundant measure and so generously through the years may now be granted you.

Very sincerely yours,

*Ralph K. Hickok*

Ralph K. Hickok  
President

RKH:K



*Herman H. Horne*

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON SQUARE, NEW YORK

OCT 16 1934

October 15, 1934

Ans.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Let me thank you most heartily for your kindness in sending me a copy of the notes made by your son concerning two of my books. It touches me deeply that he should have felt this way, and also that you should have told me about it.

At the time of the tragedy, our Pastor, Dr. J. P. Taylor of Leonia, and I were in conference, and our prayerful sympathy was with you. You must have felt this from all parts of the country. I refrained from writing you at the time, knowing that, busy and distressed as you were, you would take the time to acknowledge my letter. By your Christian courage under this new trial you are continuing to teach us all afresh.

With heartiest appreciation and sympathy, let me remain,

Yours very cordially,

*Herman H. Horne*

HERMAN H. HORNE

Chairman of the Departments of  
Philosophy and History of Education

HHH:G

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Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

REV. PAUL R. HICKOK, PASTOR  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

13th October 1934

Dr Robert E Speer  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

My dear Doctor Speer

Please let me express the sincere sympathy that Mrs Hickok and I have been feeling for you and your family in these recent weeks. I had hoped to see you in person to express it, and on that account this note is more tardy than otherwise it would have been. But I assure you the sentiment is none the less sincere by reason of the days that have passed, or that they are given in this manner instead of in person.

Our hearts have gone out to you in love and tenderness. In our home, as in thousands of homes where your influence has come in rich blessing, there has been earnest prayer for the Father's comfort for all of you, and we are assured that you have had His promised grace.

Yours very sincerely,

Paul R. Hickok

(2)

Essex Falls, N. J.  
October 30, 1934.

My dear Doctor Spur:

I've been trying to write you ever since the untimely passing of Elliott. Somehow, there are no words to express what I should like to say. Note after note has just been torn up. There's just this - Mrs. Hill and I have grieved with Mrs. Spur and you; you have been much in our hearts and in our prayers. We hope, and doubt not, that you have been sustained and comforted by that deep, courageous faith you have shared with so many of us who have known you.

Our own Robert Spur has grown far from the tiny baby you saw for a few moments, years ago, in the Missionary Review office. Twice he has lain deep in the shadow, but has been spared to us. He will be sixteen in January, and will be graduated from high school next June. He is as chock full of fun and play as a healthy, normal boy of that age should be; but he also shows signs of a keen mind that, turned in the right direction, may some day make us proud of him.

Sincerely yours.

J. Sturson Hill.

ack,

600 LEXINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

September 20. 1934

Dear Mrs. Spear.

In the many years that it has been my pleasure to know you, we have exchanged a number of notes on various matters but at this time I am completely at a loss on writing you.

May I express to you and Mr. Spear and your dear family my deepest sympathy. The ways of life are not always clear and our faith frequently must meet the severest tests.

My mother has been critically ill all summer and now we know that she cannot live, - a few days or possibly weeks remain only for her. - A relatively young woman, active and busy all her life, at a point where a hard-earned rest might await her, - now must go. Truly we cannot always understand the plan behind these events but a sincere trust and belief must carry us through.

My very best wishes to you and Mr. Spear. Sincerely,  
Thea Rick J. Spear

99 LINDEN AVENUE  
ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY  
TELEPHONE 3-0535

My dear Beth: Thank you  
for your very nice letter.  
I shall be writing to you  
at the beginning of next week  
about Elliot & I am studying  
your letter to Lucy so that  
she may send her memories  
to. I am just off to

Smith College for the week.  
and but I shall hope  
to see you both soon.

Affectionately,

Maud J. Halset.

October, the 11<sup>th</sup>

ALLAN V. HEELY  
JOHNSON HALL  
ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS



November 5, 1934

Dear Mr. Speer:

I am chagrined at leaving your note so long unanswered. For the past month my whole consciousness has been preoccupied with the approaching and the making of a momentous decision; and all else has gone by the board. I am not ordinarily so ungracious.

Of course I should love to do whatever slight service I can for Elliott. I am enclosing a statement of my recollections; not a finished product, but the record of a happy memory of a gay spirit which, even twenty years ago, knew the way and followed it, and drew others to it.

I hope I am not too late with it.

Faithfully yours,



P.S. I do not think there are others here now who knew Elliott at Andover as a contemporary as I did.

*L. Newton Hayes*

# NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

PROVIDENCE Y. M. C. A. DIVISION

160 BROAD STREET

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

*JNS*

*School of Business*

July 2, 1935

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:

I have recently come across a letter which I wrote last autumn and then misplaced before I could mail it. The letter has just come to light. At first, I thought I would destroy it, but on second consideration I decided to forward it to you, for the sentiment expressed in it is as sincere to-day as it was when I wrote it in September.

May I send you my very warmest regards and my best wishes to you and Mrs. Speer for a happy and restful summer.

Very sincerely yours,

*Luther*

L. Newton Hayes  
Divisional Director

LNH:MC



*L. Newton Hayes*

# NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

PROVIDENCE Y. M. C. A. DIVISION

160 BROAD STREET

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

*Amo*

*School of Business*

September 30, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:

Even though I am very late I want to add my message of sincere sympathy to the hundreds which I know you have received from countless friends all over the world since they received word of the sad death of your son Elliott.

Why people who have done so much for young men and women of the world as you and Mrs. Speer should be allowed to suffer in this way is very difficult for me to understand, but I do know this: the wonderful way in which his parents are taking this bereavement will be an inspiration to all who have admired you and looked up to you for guidance in matters concerning life's deepest significance.

Not long ago I was looking through my autograph album which I had as a boy, and I was pleased again to see your name and that of Mrs. Speer written when you were guests of my parents in Soochow, China, on your first trip around the world.

With very warm personal regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

*Luther*

L. Newton Hayes  
Divisional Director

LNH:MC